



Homicide Death Rates, Age-Adjusted Clark County and Washington State, 1994 through 2001

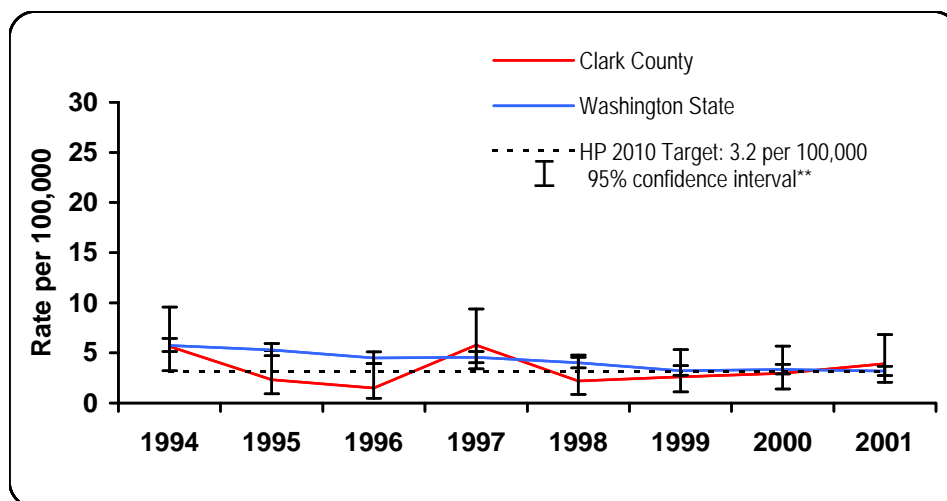
Why we should care? Homicide accounted for 200 deaths in Washington in 2000 (age-adjusted death rate: 3.4 per 100,000 population). There has been a decline in homicide rates in recent years. Many rural counties have higher homicide rates than the state average. The risk for death by homicide is highest for males 15 - 24 years of age. (1)

Status?

- In Clark County, homicide is on the rise. In 1999, Clark County fell below the target of 3.2 which was a significant improvement from 1997 when Clark was over the State average.
- Historically, national homicide rates have been substantially higher than Washington's. The US and state trends are parallel, however, with US homicide rates showing a pattern of decline much like that reported for Washington. (1)

What we can do?

- Improve identification, referral, and treatment of people at high risk of violent behavior because of chronic use of alcohol and other drugs. (1)
- Use architectural and social-planning principles to create safe "defensible" space, such as well-lit courtyards and stairwells in housing areas and in public areas. (1)
- Expand health education curricula from elementary to high school to teach children how to manage hostility and aggression with nonviolent means. (1)
- Develop and implement media campaigns to educate the public that interpersonal violence is a problem that can be addressed and not an inalterable fact of life. (1)



Year	Clark County			Washington State		
	Rate*	95% CI**	Number	Rate*	95% CI**	Number
1994	5.7	(3.2, 9.6)	16	5.8	(5.1, 6.4)	314
1995	2.3	(0.9, 5.2)	7	5.3	(4.7, 6.0)	298
1996	1.5	(0.5, 3.9)	5	4.5	(4.0, 5.1)	254
1997	5.8	(3.4, 9.4)	18	4.6	(4.0, 5.2)	258
1998	2.2	(0.9, 4.8)	7	4.0	(3.5, 4.6)	234
1999	2.6	(1.1, 5.3)	8	3.2	(2.8, 3.7)	190
2000	3.0	(1.4, 5.7)	10	3.4	(2.9, 3.9)	200
2001	3.9	(2.1, 6.8)	13	3.2	(2.8, 3.7)	192

Please see reverse side for technical notes and sources



Technical Notes: The age-adjusted death rate is defined as the number of deaths per 100,000 standard population after removing the effects of age on mortality.

*Rate per 100,000 population adjusted using the 2000 U.S. Standard Population; deaths coded using ICD 10.

** If the confidence intervals for state and county overlap in a given year, there is no significant difference between these rates.

Sources: (1) State Death Data: DOH Centers for Health Statistics, Death Record System (2) *Vital Registration System, Annual Statistics Files, Deaths* 1994-2001. [Data file]. Olympia, WA: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics. (3) Public Health: Seattle & King County, Epidemiology, Planning, & Evaluation. (1991-2003). VistaPHw (version 3.1.1) [Computer software for public health assessment]. Seattle, WA.